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EDITORIAL

WHILE polar exploration is less in the minds of the public than it was last year, it is quite probable that the results of the current season will prove more ample. Reports from the north indicate more favorable conditions and there is ground to hope that the exceptional severity of the weather which so seriously interfered with the work last year will be offset by an exceptionally open season. Peary, Jackson and Nansen may all possibly return laden with rich results, though the last cannot certainly be expected, even though he should be ultimately successful. Lieutenant Peary is quite certain to return and there is good reason to believe that the success of his earlier attempts will attend him this season. The expedition which goes to the north to bring him back is under the immediate direction of his brother-in-law, Mr. Emil Diebitsch, a civil engineer, who was a member of the expedition last year. Professor R. D. Salisbury goes as the geologist of the expedition, and, unless circumstances are peculiarly adverse, he may be trusted to bring back much valuable data. His field will be much the same as that of the writer during last season, but it is expected that a larger portion of his time will be devoted to southern Greenland, the purpose being to develop more fully the differences in the effects of latitude which were found to be very notable last year. The expedition is expected to return about the first of October.

Much interest is being awakened in the exploration of the Antarctic regions, and the subject received earnest consideration at the recent International Geographical Congress in London; indeed the discussion of this subject appears to have been the notable feature of the congress. Although the meager reports of the press do not indicate the precise plans recommended, it

may safely be assumed that out of the conjoined wisdom of so many experienced explorers the best ideas in polar exploration will find expression in the expedition or expeditions that it is hoped will spring out of the agitation. Dr. Cooke is laboring industriously in the endeavor to organize his proposed Antarctic expedition, but with what success we are not informed. Obviously he is hampered somewhat by the moral effects of the ill success of the *Miranda* expedition of last season. Altogether there is much ground of hope for important returns at the close of the season and for new enterprises in the early future.

T. C. C.

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The size of this number has been reduced and its issuance delayed by an oversight and by the failure to receive in time the proof of an article whose author is doubtless in the field. As the last numbers have considerably exceeded the standard size and succeeding numbers are likely to do so also, our readers will doubtless generously overlook the shortage of this number.

T. C. C.